

REMARKS

This application is a national stage filing under 35 USC §371 of PCT application no. PCT/EP2003/050298 filed July 9, 2003 which claims priority to EP application no. 02102020.1 filed July 10, 2002 and U.S. provisional patent application no. 60/406,450 filed August 28, 2002.

Claims 1-3, 5-21, 23-26 and 29-33 are pending. Claims 4, 22, 27 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Abstract, specification and claims have been amended to place the application in better condition for prosecution.

No new subject matter has been added to the application. The amendments to each of the independent claims are supported, for example, in original claim 27, on page 8, lines 11-20, on page 13, lines 20-23 and on page 14, lines 20-24.

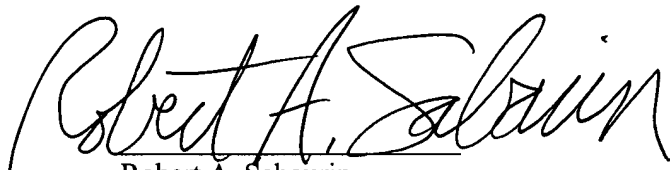
This national application is filed with an IDS and references. Also enclosed is a Transmittal Letter, and a copy of PCT/EP2003/050298 as filed on July 9, 2003 (International Publication Number WO 2004/008737).

Please debit any fees due under this general authorization to assignee Deposit Account No. 501490.

In view of the foregoing Amendments, this Application is in condition for examination.

Should questions arise during examination, Examiner is requested to contact applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert A. Sabourin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent part.

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